

OREGON CROP WEATHER



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Weather: Most of the weather in Oregon last week featured much-needed precipitation and cooler temperatures. The rainfall put a stop to many field activities but helped replenish surface water in many areas. Precipitation was significant in some areas, and less than significant in others. Some fires in Wallowa County were suppressed by the rainfall. High temperatures were mostly in the eighties, except along coastal areas where high temperatures were in the seventies. The highest number of growing degree days (base 50) for the week was in Medford, with 135.

Field Crops: Rain and cooler temperatures early in the week slowed harvest progress across much of the State. Wheat producers, especially in the northeast, were concerned that sprout damage may occur. Statewide, winter wheat harvest was nearly complete, with 96 percent of the crop harvested as of August 29. Alfalfa and other hay harvest was also delayed last week by the wet weather. Fall tillage and preparation for fall seeding continued in many areas.

Fruit and Nuts: Pear harvest continued in Hood River, Clackamas, Washington, Wasco and Jackson counties. Early apples were picked throughout the Willamette Valley and in Wasco County. Some evergreen blackberries and blueberries were still available. Washington County hazelnuts were beginning to fall. More eastern filbert blight was found in Linn and Lane counties. Peach harvest continued in Yamhill County. Some southern coast cranberry growers reported damage from larval feeding of cranberry girdler insects.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: As the season end nears, many greenhouses and nurseries have begun preparations for next year. Most nursery crops stood to benefit from the precipitation; however, Easter lily growers in Coos and Curry counties had to adjust their fieldwork activities because of the rain. Both greenhouses and nurseries were rotating large shrubs during the week.

Vegetables: Rain during the week benefitted most of the vegetable crops. Harvest continued for tomatoes, sweet corn, melons and squash throughout the State. Truck gardens were doing well in Josephine County. Growers began to harvest processing sweet corn in Washington County. Although it was delayed a couple of days, the onion harvest was fully underway in Malheur County by the end of the week. Klamath County farmers are rolling potato vines in preparation for harvest.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Rain showers over the past two weeks have done much to improve dryland range conditions across the State. Some dryland pastures in western Oregon are starting to show some regrowth. Some rangeland and pastures in northeast areas in Oregon were still reported as dry, however. Livestock were reported as mostly good across the State.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 8/29/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	82	72	92	78
Spring Wheat harvested (%)	87	79	94	92
Winter Wheat harvested (%)	96	92	100	98
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.6	6.5	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 8/29/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	6	36	58	—
Subsoil (%)	21	40	39	—

Crop Condition - Week Ending 8/29/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	1	18	36	39	6

CLACKAMAS: Most of the week was wet and cool. Very little opportunity to get any fieldwork done. Some wheat straw was rained on and discolored. Pear picking between rains. Evergreen blackberry picking severely interrupted and damaged by rain. Most vegetables and nursery crops stood to benefit from the rain. Dryland pastures already starting to show some regrowth. Livestock continue in good condition.

COOS/CURRY: Some cranberry growers reported damage from larval feeding of cranberry girdler insects. Easter lily growers had to adjust fieldwork activities due to precipitation. Livestock mostly good. Much needed precipitation occurred with good replenishment of surface water in Curry, but less so in Coos. Growing degree days increased, but soil temperatures decreased somewhat. Days since precipitation of 0.25 inches or more at Brookings-Harbor: 3 days, at Bandon: 3 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 62.4 at Bandon to 66.6 deg F at Brookings-Harbor; highs ranged from 69.8 at Bandon to 96.1 deg F at Brookings-Harbor, and lows ranged from 55.5 at Bandon to 56.9 deg F at Brookings-Harbor. Precipitation ranged from 0.82 inches at Bandon to 2.52 inches at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 91 GDD at Bandon to 112 GDD at Brookings-Harbor. Minimal scattered rainfall during the early part of the week, with overcast conditions prevailing throughout the early morning hours much of the period.

JACKSON: Grain harvest completed. Pear harvest in full swing with Bartlett and Comice pears. Harvesting of Bosc may start as early as next week. Irrigation of orchards continues. Tomatoes, melons and sweet corn were all being harvested. Fields being disked for fall seeding. Third cutting alfalfa harvest about complete.

JOSEPHINE: Some precipitation this week but not enough to make any difference. Still pumping water like crazy to keep everything green. Harvest continues and truck gardens are doing well. Tree fruit is bountiful this year. Quality is good in some areas. Grapes are just starting to ripen and there seems to be a heavy crop. Cooler temperatures have helped irrigation to keep things green. Today is very warm, windy and dry, as was the last four days of the week.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Apple crop was in full swing. Hazelnuts look like a great crop. More eastern filbert blight found in Linn and Lane counties. Peaches look like a very nice crop, but yields are down. Some late blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. Summer vegetables looking very good. Tomatoes ripening all over the valley. Garlic crop moderate. Greenhouses and nurseries nearing end of season, with some sales. Preparations for next year underway.

MARION: Rain this week has brought any seed and hay harvest to standstill. Most grass crops have been harvested but a few bentgrass fields may have experienced some seed loss; it should be fairly minor, however. Hop harvest continues and mint harvest is nearly complete. Red clover seed harvest is still a little ways off yet. Recent rains held up finish of grass and clover seed harvest, but there's no apparent damage to either crop. For most crops the rain was welcome. Fall plowing has started and the ground is dry.

WASHINGTON: Field corn growing well. Red clover being windrowed. Alfalfa nearing cutting stage for fourth time. Blackberries winding down; some blueberries continue to produce. Late harvest of everbearing strawberries continues. Walnuts sizing and hazelnuts beginning to fall. Prunes ripe and Bartlett pears being picked. Sweet corn for processing being harvested; yields average. All vegetables and squash growing rapidly. Greenhouses and nurseries are rotating large shrubs in 5 gallon containers. Pastures starting to green up after rains. Low temperatures of 54 degrees with a high of 90 degrees. Over three inches of rain, with some local areas up to four inches.

YAMHILL: This week's rainfall helped dryland crops to regain moisture in their soil profile. Peach growers were concerned about increased risk of brown fruit rot. Gravenstein and Akane apples are being harvested. This year's hazelnut forecast showed a higher than expected industry crop yield.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Intermittent and scattered showers are halting grain and hay harvests. Mint harvest completed. Showers are benefitting rangeland.

HARNEY: Some hay down and alfalfa rained on. Rain helped cool it off and make less dust. Rain showers most of week, with cooler temperatures. Cleared off by Friday. Rain and cool weather pretty much suspended all hay harvesting operations.

KLAMATH: Rain during the early part of the week delayed grain, mint and other harvest activities. Precipitation levels not significant. Early harvest has yielded high bushel weight, heavy yield and good quality for wheat, barley and oat crops. Some activity for potato harvest has begun. Farmers are rolling potato vines.

LAKE: Cooler temperatures throughout the week, although it warmed up on the weekend. Received some precipitation in areas of the county towards the middle of the week.

MALHEUR: Rain showers over the past two weeks have greatly improved the range situation. However, some third cutting alfalfa got wet. Onion harvest is fully underway even though there were a couple of days delay. Beans were in the windrow and will have to dry again before they can be harvested.

MORROW: We had a good rain Sunday and again on Wednesday. It should help for fall green up.

SHERMAN: The years 1979 and 1990 were the last times we had over an inch of rain in August, so hopes are running high for good seeding conditions this fall. Only a couple of wheat growers were left with grain to cut and they will be watching for sprout damage to kernels. Made for a quiet week in the fields, but lots of traffic in the farm stores. Getting ready for fair which starts August 31. Saturday features the livestock auction and 35th annual FFA Beef Barbecue.

UMATILLA: Rumors of unharvested wheat testing positive for sprout damage is a concern for some farmers.

UNION: Continued rain has farmers concerned over sprout in unharvested grain. Approximately 10,000 acres left to harvest. Field work beginning for fall planting.

WALLOWA: Heavy rainfall at the first of the week caused harvest operations to shut down for most of the valley. Some producers are concerned about sprout damage. Warmer weather expected later, which should help dry out crops. Range conditions are dry. Rains did put out the forest fires that were burning. Some areas received over one inch of rain on Sunday.

WASCO: Three quarters of an inch of rain last Sunday and a quarter of an inch on Wednesday prevented grain harvest all week. Third and fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was also held up all week. Pear and early apple crops were being picked. Cattle continue to hold their own on the dry pastures.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING August 29, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	53	71	63	4	95	25	1.94	1.54	6	65.05	-1.28	98	202
Crescent City	51	70	61	3	80	17	0.43	0.15	3	54.11	-11.06	83	161
Florence	47	77	62	2	88	11	1.45	1.07	4	73.43	-2.96	96	186
North Bend	54	72	64	4	99	29	0.51	0.23	3	65.38	2.12	103	178
Tillamook	49	70	62	4	86	23	3.82	3.29	5	88.94	0.41	100	204
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	54	84	67	2	118	11	0.68	0.43	4	32.13	-10.53	75	137
Eugene	48	86	66	-1	111	-6	0.44	0.13	4	38.75	-10.57	79	154
Hillsboro	51	81	64	-1	100	-3	1.01	0.73	4	32.05	-5.48	85	161
McMinnville	50	83	65	-1	105	-3	0.97	0.75	4	34.40	-8.73	80	158
Portland	58	80	66	-2	113	-11	0.95	0.64	4	31.37	-4.88	87	157
Salem	53	83	66	1	112	1	0.67	0.45	4	38.75	-0.37	99	163
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	51	89	68	-3	124	-14	0.15	0.01	3	28.47	-2.52	92	119
Medford	50	98	69	-3	135	-10	0.24	0.10	2	19.62	0.79	104	115
Roseburg	52	89	67	-2	119	-7	0.20	-0.01	2	33.47	0.77	102	141
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	43	78	57	-7	54	-40	0.75	0.54	3	18.22	4.20	130	102
Heppner	50	88	65	-2	109	-11	0.32	0.11	3	11.14	2.20	125	95
Hermiston	53	90	68	-2	130	-7	0.28	0.14	2	11.14	2.20	125	95
John Day	50	85	62	-4	84	-24	1.15	0.92	4	13.60	0.30	102	121
Moro	49	79	61	-5	76	-31	0.63	0.49	5	13.31	2.21	120	101
Pendleton	52	88	67	-3	121	-17	0.40	0.26	2	14.90	2.90	124	110
The Dalles	55	91	68	4	130	26	0.26	0.12	3	14.81	2.32	119	107
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	42	79	58	-4	57	-21	0.42	0.28	3	13.59	1.91	116	86
Burns	38	84	58	-4	57	-25	0.05	-0.09	2	9.66	-0.28	97	95
Klamath Falls	42	86	59	-6	68	-34	0.03	-0.11	2	12.75	-0.73	95	100
Lakeview	32	84	58	-5	60	-32	0.00	-0.14	0	9.13	-6.47	59	65
Redmond	39	89	60	-3	72	-20	0.14	0.00	3	10.23	1.67	120	90
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	39	85	58	-7	56	-40	0.51	0.30	5	8.90	-1.94	82	108
Joseph	44	79	59	0	63	-2	1.29	1.01	5	19.18	-5.63	77	140
La Grande	46	84	61	-6	78	-37	0.25	0.02	3	13.99	-3.43	80	107
Union	44	80	59	-5	67	-32	1.22	0.95	6	16.74	2.99	122	140
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	46	87	64	-7	100	-45	0.24	0.10	4	9.06	-0.60	94	79
Rome	44	88	63	-4	95	-24	0.38	0.24	2	8.23	-0.03	100	84

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Oregon Crop Weather 22-04
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